

pinnate leaves and long, dense, clublike racemes of tiny flowers bristling with long stamens. This plant yields the true "gum arabic" of commerce, which is used for giving luster to crepe and silk, for thickening colors and mordants in calico-printing, in the manufacture of ink and blacking, as a mucilage, and for confectionery and medicinal purposes. It is more abundant in the dry season, exuding usually at the forking of the branches. In Kordofan, the gum is obtained from both wild and cultivated trees, and in the gardens the trees are artificially cut, strips of the outer bark being removed, shortly after the rains cease; the first collection of gum is made about 60 days after cutting and the garden is completely picked over every fourth day thereafter until the rains begin again and new leaves appear, at which stage the exudation ceases. The period of production is given at from 3 to 20 years, beginning when the trees are 3 or 4 years old. A plantation of about 10 acres has been estimated to yield from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of gum in the course of a season. (Adapted from Holland, Useful Plants of Nigeria, pt. 2, p. 293; and Engler and Prantl, Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien, vol. 3, pt. 3, p. 112, fig. 68.)

*Astrocaryum* sp. (Phoenicaceae), 47997. **Palm.** From Bogotá, Colombia. Seeds presented by Mr. M. T. Dawe. "In my recent journeys I came across a palm known as 'Güere.' It is found in the forests of the Darien country, and grows from sea level to altitudes of about 400 meters [1,300 feet]. The palm is about 10 meters [33 feet] in height and bears large, hanging racemes of scarlet-colored fruits, the nuts of which yield a useful oil." (Dawe.)

*Berberis pruinosa* (Berberidaceae), 48015. **Barberry.** From Paris, France. Seeds presented by Vilmorin-Andrieux & Co. A robust evergreen shrub, probably 10 feet or more in height, native to southwestern China. Its leaves are of a leathery texture, up to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, lustrous green above, often grayish beneath, not unlike in general appearance those of the Himalayan *B. aristata*. It gets its name from the rich pruinose (plum-colored) bloom that covers the fruits. (Adapted from The Gardeners' Chronicle, Nov. 15, 1913.)

*Beta vulgaris* (Chenopodiaceae), 48022. **Sugar beet.** From Naarden, Holland. Seeds presented by Kuhn & Co.,